

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The applicant acknowledges, with thanks, receipt of the June 6, 2007 Office Action. This amendment is responsive to the June 6, 2007 Office Action. The applicant would also like to thank the examiner for the interview granted on September 5, 2007. The applicant will provide a substance of interview at a later time upon receipt of the Interview Summary Form from the examiner.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 71-93 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious in view of the combination of Juitt et al. (US Patent 7,042,988; *hereinafter* Juitt) and Weatherspoon et al. (US Patent 7,174,564; *hereinafter* Weatherspoon). Withdrawal of this rejection is requested for the reasons that will now be set forth.

By way of review, independent claim 71 recites a system where a switch is disposed between a network and an access point. Disposed on the network is an authentication server. The switch maintains a table of authorized addresses. A packet received via the access point with an address that is in the table of authorized addresses is forwarded onto the network; otherwise the packet is blocked. The switch is configured to authenticate the access point. Once the access point is authenticated, its address is added to the table of authorized addresses and the access point is permitted to authenticate wireless clients. As the access point authenticates a wireless client, it sends a message to the switch informing the switch the wireless client is authenticated. In particular embodiments, see e.g. claim 77, a key is established between the switch and access point which the access point uses to authenticate the message informing the switch that the wireless client is authorized. The switch adds the authenticated wireless client to the table of authorized users, thus packets sent from the wireless client are passed through the access point to the switch and from the switch onto the network. In other words, once the access point has been authenticated by the switch, the switch trusts the access point to perform authentications of wireless clients (namely the switch is the authenticator for the access point, and the access point is the authenticator for the wireless client). The switch adds wireless clients to its table of authorized addresses responsive to the access point informing the switch the wireless client is authenticated. Independent claim 102 is an apparatus claim for the switch in

the aforementioned system and independent claim 107 is directed to a methodology implemented by the switch.

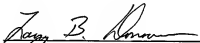
As discussed in the interview, Juitt illustrates a network where a gateway server 120 is disposed between access points 102a, 102b, 102c. Unlike what is claimed in independent claims 71, 102 and 107, in Juitt the gateway server authenticates the mobile device (*see e.g.*, col. 8 line 66 – col. 9 line 2; col. 10, lines 53-56), not the switch. Weatherspoon does not employ a switch. In Weatherspoon, the AP functions as the authenticator for a wireless client, the authentication server authenticates both the AP and the wireless client at the same time. Upon a successful authentication, the AP allows the client unfettered access to the network. Therefore, for the reasons just set forth, neither Juitt nor Weatherspoon, alone or in combination teach or suggest all of the claim elements of independent claims 71, 102 and 109. Claims 73-77, 101, 103-106 and 108-110 directly depend from one of claims 71, 102 and 109 and are thus not obvious in view of Juitt and/or Weatherspoon for the same reasons.

CONCLUSION

Withdrawal of the rejections is requested for the reasons just set forth. If there are any fees necessitated by the foregoing communication, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0902, referencing our Docket No. 72255/08267.

Respectfully submitted,

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